

V. Well-being Topics and Indicators



Overview

A set of indicators to measure the different topics of well-being has been developed for the 395 OECD regions. These indicators, comparable across OECD countries, come from official sources in most of the cases and are available over different years. They are publicly available in the [OECD Regional Well-Being Database](#). At present, regional measures are available for OECD countries in eleven well-being topics: income, jobs, housing, education, health, environment, safety, civic engagement and governance, access to services, community, and life satisfaction (Table 2).

Regional measures, comparable across countries, are not currently available on work-life balance, which is instead included in the [OECD Better Life Initiative](#) at the national level. The OECD plans to include this indicator in future releases.

For each topic, one or two indicators have been selected (Table 2). Improvements in the way we measure the well-being topics in regions are underway: for example, additional measures of access to services or indicators that measure other environmental performance are being developed. A larger set of indicators is available in the OECD publication *Regions at a Glance* (OECD, 2016), including measures of income inequalities within regions.

Table 2: Well-Being topics selected for visualisation

	Topics	Indicators
Material conditions	Income	♦ Household disposable income per capita (in real USD PPP)
	Jobs	♦ Employment rate (%) ♦ Unemployment rate (%)
	Housing	♦ Number of rooms per person (ratio)
Quality of life	Health	♦ Life expectancy at birth (years) ♦ Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people)
	Education	♦ Share of labour force with at least secondary education (%)
	Environment	♦ Estimated average exposure to air pollution in PM2.5 (µg/m ³), based on satellite imagery data
	Safety	♦ Homicide rate (per 100 000 people)
	Civic engagement	♦ Voter turnout (%)
	Accessibility of services	♦ Share of households with broadband access (%)
Subjective well-being	Community	♦ Percentage of people who have friends or relatives to rely on in case of need
	Life satisfaction	♦ Average self-evaluation of life satisfaction on a scale from 0 to 10

Reference years: see details in section VII.

Source: OECD Regional Well-Being Database.